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ABC News Australia

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Liberals to offer \$5,000 to overseas officers to relocate under plan to recruit 3,000 police

8h • 2 min read

Summarize



The Victorian opposition plans to recruit an additional 3,000 police officers if elected. (ABC News: Margaret Burin)

The Victorian opposition has pledged to hire 3,000 additional police officers if elected, half of whom would be recruited from overseas.

The plan involves offering relocation allowances of \$5,000 for recruits to move to Victoria to take up positions.

Half of the 3,000 recruits would be "experienced officers" from the United Kingdom, Ireland and New Zealand.

The opposition also plans to reopen more than 40 police stations they say are "closing or operate on reduced hours".

Liberal leader Jess Wilson said the plan aimed to fill hundreds of vacancies at Victoria Police.

"Crime is at an all-time high, dozens of police stations are closed or operating on reduced hours and too many Victorians are unable to get a timely police response in their time of need," she said.

"Our plan will get more cops on the beat, reopen closed police stations and restore community safety across Victoria."

Shadow Police Minister Brad Battin said dedicated recruitment teams would be established to fast-track applicant checks.

"Whether it's New Zealand, England, Ireland, where they can come across here into Victoria, obviously we all know people want to live here," he said.

"It gives them the opportunity to come across but it also fills the void of recruiting in a shorter period of time.

"They'll still have to do programs, they'll still have to go through the academy for parts of their training."

The Liberals said the plan replicates a scheme used in Western Australia.

In 2024, WA Police reported it [had fallen short of the scheme's recruitment goal by about half](#) of the 950 officers it wanted to recruit.

Some overseas officers who had applied to move to Australia under the scheme [reported they failed to get a visa due to the Migration Act's health requirement](#).

The requirement makes it difficult for some people who have children with disabilities or health conditions to obtain a visa.

Victoria's Attorney-General Sonya Kilkenny criticised the announcement, labelling it a "one-policy strategy" by the Coalition.

She said the government had already made a record \$4.5 billion investment into police, including an additional 3,600 police officers.

"We know that recruitment is up, we understand applications are now at a near-record high and we will continue to back in our chief commissioner of police," Ms Kilkenny said.

"We have done significant work to reform and strengthen our bail laws and we know they're having an impact."

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'Let down': Karl's claim after BRS arrest

Story by Jack Nivison · 5h · 2 min read

Karl Stefanovic has claimed in his latest podcast episode that Australian soldiers have been "let down" by the arrest of alleged war criminal Ben Roberts-Smith.

In the latest episode of The Karl Stefanovic Show, the Today Show host discussed the recent arrest of the former SAS soldier over allegations he committed a series of war crimes in Afghanistan.



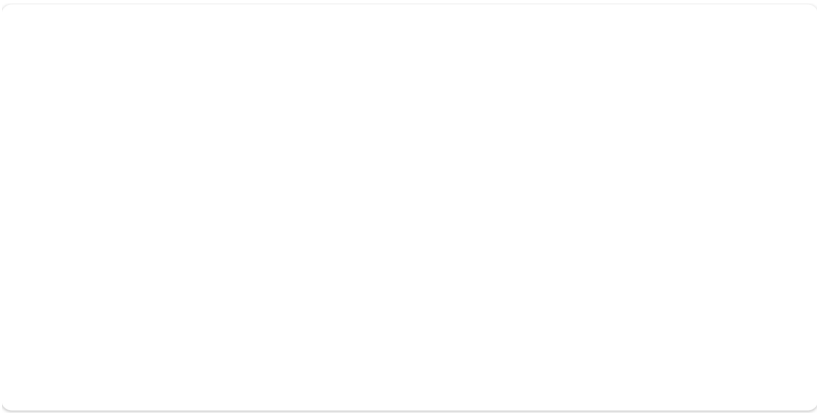
'Let down': Karl's claim after BRS arrest

Speaking with military lawyer Glenn Kolomeitz and former SAS commander Mark Wales, Stefanovic said he thought the arrest may

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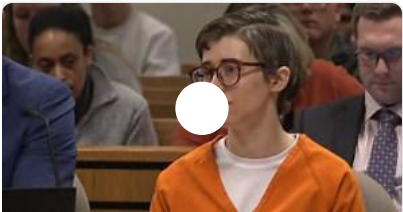
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Council will take down Union and St George's flags - and say they'll pursue people who put them up

Story by Ed Holt · 16h • 2 min read

A council has announced they will take down Union Jack and St George's flags from lampposts claiming they are a safety concern.

Shropshire Council said that it supports and 'does not prohibit' residents from expressing their British patriotism and added that it recognises the flag as a 'national emblem'.

However, the Liberal Democrat run local authority added that putting the flags up could be considered a criminal offence and those responsible will be pursued for the cost of the removal.

The council's deputy leader had previously said the authority would not stop locals from putting up national flags and that he had 'absolutely no problem with people being patriotic'.

Since Storm Dave swept across the nation last week, many of the flags across the county have reportedly become torn, loose or insecure.

Now, the council have started a £13,000 full-scale removal operation of the flags which will initially start in Shrewsbury before being

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